

ROMAN CATHOLICISM

- *What should we keep in mind about Roman Catholics & Roman Catholicism? (Rom. 10:1-4)*

A. Basic Facts & History of Roman Catholicism

1. *Members:* Of the _____ billion professing Christians in the world, Roman Catholicism is the largest denomination with an estimated _____ billion members according to its headquarters in the Vatican.
2. *Name:* “Catholic” means _____, while “Roman” further distinguishes “Catholics” who follow the Roman Rite and are in full communion with (and submission to) the _____ in Rome (Vatican City).
3. *Origin:* The Roman Catholic Church (RCC) _____ over the centuries through a mixture of error with the truth and unbelievers with believers in the professing church. (Matt. 13:31-43; Acts 15:1-2; Gal. 2:4-5; 1 Tim. 4:1-3)
4. *Areas of Biblical Agreement:*
 - a. Jesus Christ has two natures (fully human and fully God) in one person, was virgin born, sinless, the Savior of the world, and is coming again as the judge of the living and the dead.
 - b. The Trinity consists of three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, in the one being who is God.
 - c. The Bible is the Word of God, inspired by the Holy Spirit, inerrant, sacred, and authoritative.
 - d. Mankind is sinful and in need of Christ’s redemptive work and God’s grace for salvation.
 - e. There is an eternal heaven for righteous humanity following death and an eternal hell, created for the devil and his angels, for unrighteous and condemned humanity.

B. Sources of Authority in Roman Catholicism

1. *Scripture:* The RCC has _____ additional books in its Old Testament (Apocrypha), and it teaches that Scripture is _____ but not _____ by itself for the salvation, faith, and practice of all Christians. (Luke 11:51; 16:29; 24:44-45; 2 Tim. 3:16-17)
2. *Tradition:* The RCC bases its beliefs and practices on Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition, consisting of the church fathers and doctors, creeds, councils, Papal bulls, and universal practices of church members. (Matt. 23:2; Mark 7:1-13; 2 Thess. 2:15)
3. *Magisterium:* In the RCC, the bishops in union with the Pope are the only ones capable of giving authentic interpretation of God’s Word (i.e., Scripture & Tradition). (Acts 17:11; 2 Tim. 1:5; 3:15)
 - *What is the hierarchy of leadership in the RCC? (1 Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-7; 1 Peter 5:1-3)*
 - *Is there a special class of Christian ministers in the NT called “priests”? (1 Peter 2:5, 9)*
 - *How should we view titles for leadership such as “Father” (Matt. 23:6-12; Luke 16:24)?*
 - *What does the RCC teach about Peter and the Papacy? (Matt. 16:18; 2 Cor. 11:5; Gal. 2:6, 11-14; 1 Tim. 2:4-5)*

- *Was Sola Scriptura held by the early church, long before the Reformation?*

C. Salvation According to Roman Catholicism

1. The RCC teaches that justification is received by God's sanctifying grace through _____ and _____. (Rom. 4:1-8; Titus 3:5-7; Jas. 2:14-24)
 - *Was justification sola fide held by the early church, long before the Reformation?*
2. According to RC, salvation by _____ is bestowed through various means such as sacraments, prayers, good works, and sacramentals (crucifixes, rosaries, candles, scapulars, holy water, anointing oils, and the sign of the cross).
3. RC teaches that the grace needed for salvation involves first God's free choice and initiative but also man's _____; and excess works and merit (*supererogation*) accrue in a treasury of merit that can be dispensed by the church to help others attain salvation. (Rom. 11:6; Eph. 2:8-9)
4. According to RC, salvation can be lost through _____ sin, but for _____ sin, an _____ can partially or fully remit the temporal punishment of these sins after confession by the sinner and absolution from a priest since every sin must be purified in this life or afterward in _____. (2 Macc. 12:39-46; Ezek. 18:4; Acts 10:43; Rom. 6:23; Heb. 1:2-3)
5. In RC, individual assurance of salvation, apart from a special divine revelation, is considered a _____ of _____. (Ps. 23:6; Luke 10:20; Phil. 3:20; 4:3; 1 John 5:13)

D. Seven Sacraments of Roman Catholicism

1. *Baptism* is considered the sacrament of _____ and initiation into the church. (John 3:3-5; Acts 10:43-48; Titus 3:5-7)
2. *Penance* is a sacrament for the remission of sins committed _____, which has three requirements: confession of sins to a priest; absolution from the priest; and fulfilling the penance prescribed by the priest. (Rom. 8:34; 1 Tim. 2:4-5; Heb. 7:23-27; 10:19-22; 1 John 2:1-2)
3. *Eucharist* is a sacrament in which the sacrificial body and blood of Jesus Christ supposedly become truly present on the altar under the appearances of bread and wine after being _____ by the priest. (Matt. 26:26-29; John 6; 1 Cor. 10:16-18; 11:20, 23-26)
- 4-7. *Confirmation; Matrimony; Holy Orders; Anointing of the Sick* (Last Rites)

E. Saints, Statues, and Veneration in Roman Catholicism

1. RC teaches that the "communion of saints" allows for prayer _____ deceased saints.
 - *What does the church teach about Mary?* (Ps. 69:8; Matt. 1:25; Luke 1:47; Rom. 3:9-10, 12, 19; 1 Tim. 2:4-5)
2. The RCC claims to _____ (*dulia; hyperdulia*) saints and statues, not _____ (*latria*) them. (Exod. 20:4-5; Ps. 2:12; 95:6; Matt. 6:24; John 4:24; Acts 10:25-26; 1 Thess. 1:9; Rev. 22:8-9)
 - *How should we approach sharing the gospel with Roman Catholics?*